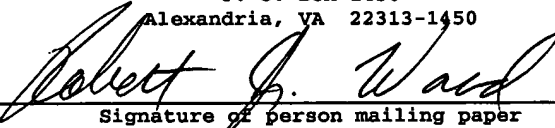


Attorney Docket No. INVSC.4

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE  
AFTER FINAL REJECTION  
SERIAL NO. 10/086,584

1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: Ward, et al.

Serial No.: 10/086,584

Filing Date: February 28, 2002

Group Art Unit: 3727

Examiner: Mai, Tri M.

For: **Apparatus and Method for  
Protecting and Wiping a Surface**

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION ACCOMPANYING A  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.114)**

Sir:

The Office Action mailed December 22, 2003 established a three-month shortened statutory time period to respond. Approval of the enclosed Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time allows Applicant until June 22, 2004 to file a response. As such, Applicants submit that this Amendment and Response is timely filed and respectfully request entry of all amendments set forth herein and consideration of the remarks provided below.

Applicants filed an Amendment and Response on March 12, 2004 to the Final Office Action of December 22, 2003. An Advisory Action was issued on March 30, 2004, and the proposed amendments contained in the Amendment and Response of March 12, 2004 were not entered. The Amendment and Response enclosed herewith is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 22, 2003.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3, the **Remarks** begin on page 14, and the **Conclusion** begins on page 18^ of this paper.